existing Election Laws and the improvements made theret$_0$ by the recently enacted Representation of the Peopie (Amendment) Act, 1988, the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 etc. contain adequate provisions.

Appeal by Christian churches during recent Mizoram elections

2412. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindi Daily Janasatta of January 15, 1989 t$_0$ the effect that during the recent election campaign in Mizoram a joint appeal was issued by ten churches which in effect favoured a particular party;

(b) if so, what was the text of the appeal; and

(c) whether such appeals attract any provisions of the law barring use of religious places for political purposes, if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ); (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to *the* news item referred to. It may be clarified, however, that the joint appeal does not seem to contain anything favouring any particular political party. The appeal made is a general one t$_0$ the peoplg °f Mizoram asking them mainly to conduct the election campaign in a fair manner, vote freely and extend support to candidates who are free from social evils.

(c) The Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 has provisions prohibiting a religious institution or manager thereof from using or allowing the use of any premises belonging to o$_r$ under the control of the institution, *inter alia,* for the promotion or propagation of any political activity. Whether the provisions of the Act have been infringed or not is a matter to be determined by the authorities concerned under a judicial process in accordance with the due process of law.

Non-PJan expenditure of Central Government

2413. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-'RAKANT BHANDARE:

Will th$_e$ Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government upto the end of December, 1988 during th$_e$ current financial year;

(b) how does it compare with the corresponding period during each of the last two financial years; and

(c) what specific step$_s$ hav$_e$ been take$_n$ during th$_e$ current year to effectively curb Non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to(c) The amounts booked in the accounts of a month do ^{n}°t fully reflect the transactions that have taken place in that month and there is a varying tim$_e$ lag before the entire expenditure is adjusted unde$_r$ appropriate heads. Further the pace of expenditure in a month will depend on the time schedule of contractual payments commitments etc. which may vary from year to year. Hence month-wise figures of expenditure will not provide a basis for fair comparison. The expenditure figure booked i$_n$ a vear as a whole would be more re-oresentativo of the actual expendi ture incurred i$_n$ that year. The figures of Non-Plan expenditure over the previous years ^{an}d the estimated expenditure of current year and their broad break up are given in the Budget document—Expenditure Budget